

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:24 pm on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly, Marilyn Murray, Dot Stillinger, Don Travisano and Township Liaison Karen Swartz. Absent: Matt Palmer.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT - The meeting schedule for 2016 and January 2017 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2016 AND JANUARY 2017

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2016 and the second Tuesday in January 2017.

Dates are: February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 14, July NO MEETING, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6 in 2016 and January 10 in 2017.

Marilyn Murray motioned to approve the January 12, 2016 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Steve Carroll 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:26-7:46)

Discussed two new actions towards re-certification, which require the adoption of ordinances; a smoke free public parks ordinance and an ordinance for the existing Green Development Checklist. Karen Swartz will discuss with administrator and Township Committee and report back to the Commission. These actions are not hard pressing issues, worth 10 point each.

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

BEE NEWS

Home Depot has agreed to phase out plants treated with bee-killing pesticides. Ace Hardware and True Value are still stocking plants sprayed with deadly neonicotinoid pesticides. More research and information is needed to indicate why there is a decline in bee population. If a commission member has an interest in researching and submitting a statement, CTEC will support.

GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

- Work Day will be Saturday, April 23. Suitable for Girl and Boy Scouts, youth groups, families. Old bottles are frequently excavated. Attend during any part of 9:30am to 12:30pm. Flyer has been posted on CTEC website and will soon appear on the Township website.

- Area shows signs of being used. Dot Stillinger will purchase trail markers.

- Any interest in having a short group walk? Possible winter cleanup?

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- PSE&G, January 8, 2016. Application for General Permit #1 to NJDEP for routine vegetation maintenance in wetlands and transition areas. Frank Esposito motioned to approved NJDEP letter regarding caution in removing vegetation in sensitive areas (circulated by email with edits) and Maureen Kelly 2nd, with all in favor.

- 2 Kincaid Lane, Block 62 Lot 88.01, 11-2-15. Application to Board of Adjustment for steep slope variances to construct a pool. Reviewed by Land Use Subcommittee. CTEC will watch this application. **Site visit Saturday Feb. 6;** suggest you arrive no later than **9:30am** (another site visit is scheduled for 9 am but sometimes the site visits are very short). CTEC will write a comment letter after the site visit.

- Golden River Homes, LLC, 11 Sunset Drive, Block 61 Lot 16. Complete 6/13/2014. Application to the Board of Adjustment for steep slope variance. The lot is vacant and slopes steeply down towards Fairmount Ave. Memo sent to Board of Adjustment on August 20, 2014 was approved by CTEC. Application was denied by the Board of Adjustment on January 21. CLOSED.

- Former Averett property, below Hillside Ave. to River Rd., Blocks 66 and 67 Lots 1 and 17 & 17.01, 11-23-15. Application to NJDEP for LOI. Possible wetlands near the pond. Letter has been sent to the NJDEP. CLOSED.

- 9 Joanna Way, Block 70 Lot 12, application to NJDEP for LOI 12-21-15. Lot is 1.5 acres in 1/2-acre zone. Area has springs and there have been drainage problems from lots on Cobblestone Court. Steep slopes. No wetlands shown on Morris County GIS. Letter has been sent to the NJDEP. CLOSED.

REPORTS

- Planning Board – Re-organization meeting was held January 11, 2016. At this time, there is one pending application - Green Village Rd auto repair to convenience store. D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison.

- Township Committee and Board of Health – The Environmental Commission commended the DPW on the snow clean up and use of alternate methods before the storm hit, by using brine on the roadways which leads to less salt use and is an environmentally friendly treatment for icy roads.

K. Swartz, Township Committee and Board of Health liaison.

- Open Space Committee

Marilyn Murray, Open Space liaison.

- Communications Committee – An updated Township website is under construction. Green Village conservation area clean up flyer has been posted to CTEC website. F. Esposito, Chair.

- Recycling Committee

F. Esposito, Chair, and M. Murray

- A resident inquired about recycling styrofoam. At this time neither CTEC nor the Township has the resources or legal ability to create a styrofoam drop-off area or to collect it during regular curbside pickups.

- The condos have less garbage and more recycling, which is related to a large recycling storage areas.

- Recycling schedule for 2016 has been mailed to all Township residents. MUA has quarterly meetings; at one time they had monthly meetings.

- The township and MUA need to collaborate on a covering/protection for paper recycling container at Tanglewood, The covering that was there, was never replaced.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee. F. Esposito, Chair.

- Conservation Easement Subcommittee

D. Stillinger and M. Murray.

- CTEC should pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.

- What is the procedure if a violation of a conservation easement is observed?

- According to remarks made at the October 22 meeting of the Township Committee a memo by Carl Woodward, former Township attorney, states that conservation easements required by the Planning Board but not accepted by the Township can be vacated at will by the Township. The opinion was delivered in connection with litigation concerning the walking easement between Pine Street and Linden Lane. The opinion also applies to an easement required by the Planning Board on a parcel on River Road on steep slopes that was proposed for a cell tower, subsequently built on Esternay Field. That conservation easement extends across the rear steep portions of a four lot

subdivision proposed by Nicholas Parisi and approved by the Planning Board in 1995. Suggest that CTEC urge the Township Committee to accept the 4 conservation easements.

- Invasive Species Subcommittee

M. Palmer, Chair

- Emerald ash borer comes to New Jersey (<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html>). Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County. Infestations throughout the U.S. and Canada have killed tens of millions of ash trees since 2002. To register for a webinar on February 17 go to http://www.njslom.org/seminar-documents/2016-feb17-eab.html?utm_source=hootsuite.

CTEC BUSINESS

- ANJEC dues (\$300) for 2016 for 7 members plus workshop plan (\$60) has been paid. Workshop plan allows CTEC members to attend workshops free, including the Environmental Commissioner training in March.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer.
- Very good Morris County mapping utility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>, hit Map or Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.
- Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area? Nash Field to Green Village Road?

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January 2016. Two letters to NJDEP concerning applications for LOI.
- December 2015. Comment letter to NJDEP regarding proposed new rules for relaxing sewers and hence development in environmentally sensitive areas.
- November 2015. Two letters to NJDEP concerning applications for LOI, one letter to NJDEP concerning repair of septic system. Letter to Planning Board regarding an application for steep slopes variances. Letter to legislators concerning SCR180 regarding allowing pipelines in wetland buffers.

EVENTS

- CTEC Land Use Subcommittee meeting at 6:30 before the regular meeting. All welcome to attend; attending makes you a subcommittee member. Current applications will be reviewed.
- Saturday, February 6, 9AM-ish. Board of Adjustment site visit to 2 Kincaid Lane.
- Wednesday, February 10, 7:30PM, Chatham Library. Debbie Mans, Executive Director of the NY/NJ Baykeeper, an organization committed to the conservation and restoration of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary, will speak. Hosted by the Loantaka Chapter of the Sierra Club. Free.
- Friday, March 18, 2016, 20th Annual NJ Land Conservation Rally, "The Future of Land Conservation . . . The Next 20 Years!" Wyndham Garden Hotel, 1 W. Lafayette Street, Trenton, New Jersey. \$95 (\$80 before Feb. 29). More info at <http://www.njconservation.org/conservationrally.htm>.
- Saturday, March 19, 9 am - 1:30pm, Morris County Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road, Morristown. Annual ANJEC training for EC members. More details at info@anjec.org. Free for CTEC members.

MAIL RECEIVED

- GP#1 application to NJDEP from PSE&G
- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 8:41

Carolyn Scannelli